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Wyoming Air National Guard to drill monitoring wells off base

CHEYENNE – Geologists and engineers working with the Wyoming Air National Guard will be drilling and installing monitoring wells at three sites in the neighborhood north of the guard base to look for possible underground contamination as part of an ongoing remedial investigation program.

"We are drilling at various sites in the neighborhood to determine if contamination from solvents used in the 1960s and 1970s have migrated off the base through the soil and ground water," said Maj. Rob Miknis, 153rd Civil Engineer Squadron environmental engineer.

Monitoring wells will be installed near Dell Range Boulevard on Seminoe Road and Ogallala Place, as well as in the Redmond Road cul-de-sac beginning Aug. 29. The drilling process will take up to five days and occur during business hours.

Historical records show both solvents were used in the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s to clean and maintain military equipment. The solvents, most likely, were introduced into the soil and groundwater through routine storage and use on the installation.

"The monitoring wells will help us determine if contamination has moved beyond the base's northern border," Miknis said. "These locations were chosen based on the known contamination area on the base and the groundwater flow direction."

After the investigation is complete, Guard engineers will work with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to determine the best way to remediate any contamination.